



SWATA Free Communications and Research Committee

2020 Application and Instructions

Abstract Title: _____

- Category: Case Report, Original Research
Subcategory: Case Report, Case Series, Basic, Survey, Meta-Analysis / Systematic Review, Qualitative, Critically Appraised Topic

Division: Faculty/Clinician, Post-Professional (i.e. ATC), Entry-Level Master's / Undergraduate

Answering the following questions will assist the Free Communications and Research Committee in the critique process:

1. Has this abstract been accepted for presentation at the NATA Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposia? Yes No

2. If presenting a case study or case series, you agree that you have obtained written consent from the patient or their representative prior to initiating your project. Yes No

While clinicians and faculty are encouraged to participate, awards will only be granted to graduate, entry-level masters, and undergraduate participants.

Author(s):

Form with four rows for author information, including Name, School, and Class (Undergraduate, Graduate, Entry-Level Masters, Faculty/Clinician).

* Presenting author

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEAD AUTHOR:

Mailing Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, E-mail, NPI Number (required)

ENDORISING ATHLETIC TRAINER (LAI AND/OR ATC) (FOR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS ONLY):

Name, Title, City, State, Zip, Phone, E-mail

Please note that a secondary author may present in the place of a primary author if he/she is unavailable. If an award is presented, this will be presented to the faculty sponsor if the primary author is not present.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 30th, 2020 by 11:59:59pm

Save your final version as “*LastName2020FreeComm*” prior to submitting the file. This application, title page, and your one page **structured** abstract (refer to submission guidelines listed below) must be electronically uploaded to the following folder:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/UbTCL4ZB95dr7ipz2E8W>

Please note that the deadline is determined as the time of receipt of the file, not the time it was sent. Feel free to contact the Free Communication and Research Chair, Dr. Mark Knoblauch at maknobla@central.uh.edu to confirm receipt of your submission.

Any questions regarding the application process may be sent to the SWATA Free Communications and Research Chair, Mark Knoblauch, via email at maknobla@central.uh.edu or via phone at 713-743-4117.

Please note: all lead authors are required to have an NPI number prior to submitting their abstract.

Applications which do not adhere to the submission guidelines will be rejected. Applicants should carefully review the “Common Errors in Abstract Submission” document prior to submitting their abstract in order to check for potential errors.

Applications will be reviewed and may be accepted as either an oral or poster presentation at the 2020 SWATA conference. Upon acceptance for presentation, the lead author will be notified of which format they are to present in. Undergraduate and Entry-Level Masters Students will be eligible for a \$250 award for the best poster or oral presentation. Graduate students will also be eligible for a \$250 award for the best poster or oral presentation.

For each submission, a completed application (above) is required in conjunction with a properly formatted cover page and abstract as outlined below. For each submission, include only a single file comprised of the application (i.e. the first page of this document), title page, and abstract (i.e. delete all extraneous material). Do not separate the application and abstract into separate files.



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APPLICATION/ABSTRACT

The mission of the Free Communications and Research Committee (FCRC) is to encourage and facilitate the scholarly development of student and professional members of the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association (SWATA) by providing an avenue for presentation and funding of their work, helping them to become well-rounded clinicians, and enhancing the evidence base within District Six. The guidelines for the 2020 Free Communications and Research Committee Abstract Competition will adhere to the National Athletic Trainers' Association Research and Education Foundation guidelines. Faculty and clinicians are welcome to submit an abstract, but only undergraduate, entry-level masters, and post-professional masters and doctoral students will eligible for awards. To assure the exchange of valuable information, the FCRC utilizes a blinded peer-review process for abstracts following standardized guidelines, but expects abstracts to be submitted at a quality worthy of publication. Each submitted abstract will be blinded and reviewed by a minimum of two committee members. Due to the potential number of abstracts reviewed it is essential for investigators or clinicians submitting abstract follow these instructions precisely and copy edit their own work. Abstracts that are not submitted in accordance with the instructions below will be rejected.

SWATA FREE COMMUNICATIONS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Call for Abstracts

Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposia
Arlington, TX July 25-27, 2020

Instructions for Abstract Preparation and Submission

Please read all instructions before preparing and submitting the abstract. Individuals may submit only one **Original Research Abstract** or **Clinical Case Report Abstract** as the primary (presenting) author, but may submit unlimited abstracts as a secondary author. All abstracts will undergo blind review. All presentations must be of original work (not previously presented). Authors of submissions selected for presentation will be notified approximately 4-5 weeks prior to their presentation at the 2020 Clinical Symposia.

The **Original Research Abstract** must be written to the accepted scientific standards of a research area and should present findings pertaining to healthcare issues related to the athletic training profession. The **Clinical Case Report Abstract** should present a unique individual athletic injury case of general interest to the SWATA membership. The **Critically Appraised Topic** abstract must include the selection of a clinically focused question answered on the basis of evidence collection with a clinically applicable bottom line as the end result.

Formatting Instructions

Cover sheet for the entire submission – please include the following information.

- a. Lead Author's Name
- b. Lead Author's Institution
- c. Year in school (students only)
- d. NATA member number
- e. NPI number (required for submission)
- f. Lead Author's mailing address
- g. Lead Author's email address
- h. Lead Author's telephone number
- i. Title (brief and to the point – no longer than 16 words)
- j. Contest category that the paper is being submitted to:
 - * Clinical Case Report, along with Case Report Level designation (e.g. 1, 2, 3, or 4)
 - * Original Research
- k. Supervising athletic trainer's name and their contact information (email address/phone number) (required for student submissions only)

Abstract page

Prepare your abstract in accordance with the following instructions. Please note that improperly formatted abstracts will be rejected.

1. Top, bottom, right, and left margins of the body of the abstract (in a Microsoft Word file only – ***.pdf submissions will not be accepted***) should be set at 1" using the standard 8.5" x 11" format. Use either Arial, Times New Roman, or Helvetica 12pt. font with single spacing. Provide the title of the paper or project starting at the top left margin.
2. On the next line, indent 3 spaces and provide the names of all authors, with the author who will make the presentation listed first as the lead author. Enter the last name, then initials (without periods), followed by a comma, and continue the same format for all secondary authors (if any), ending with a colon.
3. On the same line following the colon, indicate the name of the institution (including the city and state) where the research was conducted. If primary author is not at the institution where the work was completed place an * after his or her name and following the institution where the research was conducted
4. The primary author can indicate their present institution (including the city and state). For collaborative projects where portions of the project were conducted at different institutions, list all authors as described above (#3), then list institutional affiliations using the following consecutive symbols (*, †, ‡, §, †, #, **, etc.)
5. Double space and begin entering the body of the abstract flush left in a single paragraph with no indentions. **The text of the body must be structured** (with the headings as indicated in the various formats below). Do not justify the right margin. Do not include tables or figures. **The body of the abstract for Original Research is limited to 450 words. The body of the abstract for a Clinical Case Report is limited to 600 words.** A word count generated by MS Word must be included at the bottom of the abstract. The word count should include the entire body of the abstract, including headings and the final word count.
6. The required formats for the structured abstracts are listed below. For further clarification, authors should consult the AMA Manual of Style 10th edition and the instructions for authors in the Journal of Athletic Training.
7. Abstracts fall into one of the following seven (7) categories; the author is responsible for determining the most applicable category for structuring their abstract. Each is provided with examples where applicable but the examples are not all encompassing and some may overlap. Authors should choose the format that seems to best fit and present their data or case study.
8. In-text citations as well as references/bibliography are not required.



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Abstract Categories

Basic Research

- Basic Sciences (e.g. muscle tissue biopsy, EMG, etc)
- Epidemiology (e.g. cohort, case-control, intervention, clinical trial)
- Biomechanics (e.g. motion analysis, jump landing characteristics)

Survey Research

- Instrument development (e.g. validation and reliability, psychometrics)
- Cross-sectional survey (e.g. paper, web-based, or interview questionnaires)

Meta-Analysis Research & Systematic Reviews

- Meta-analysis (e.g. review and analysis of ACL clinical trials)
- Systematic Review (e.g. review of all clinical trials of the ACL without analysis)

Qualitative Research

- Research using qualitative techniques (e.g. individual interviews, focus groups, field observations, etc.)

Clinical Case Report

- Report of a Single Patient Case (e.g. snake bites football player)

Clinical Case Series

- A series of similar patients numbering between 1 and 10
- Purposely followed to describe their clinical outcomes

Critically Appraised Topic

- Must include a focused clinical question with inclusion and exclusion criteria for articles
- A Clinical Bottom Line must be established with delineation of strength of available evidence

Review Criteria for All Original Research Abstracts:

- Completeness of requested information in each structured heading.
- Overall clarity of writing
- Originality of research and or contribution to the literature or knowledgebase
- Methods, appropriate statistical analysis and results address the primary objective
- Consistency between data and conclusions
- Adequacy of sample size to support conclusions

Consult the *Journal of Athletic Training* Author's Guide for style information (*AMA Manual of Style* and *Index Medicus* journal abbreviations).

When choosing the appropriate research methodology and statistical analyses please consult your departmental faculty. The additional resources below may assist with choosing the appropriate research methodology and statistical analysis.

Berg, K.E. and Latin, R. W. (2004). *Essentials of research methods in health, physical education, exercise science, and recreation*. 2nd ed. LWW: Baltimore, MD.

Green, S.B., Salkind, N.J. (2010). *Using SPSS for Windows and Macintosh: Analyzing and Understanding Data*. 6th ed. Prentice Hall, Boston, MA.

Hurley, W.L., Denegar, C.R., Hertel, J. (2011). *Research Methods: A Framework for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. Philadelphia, PA.

Jewell, D. (2010). *Evidence-Based Physical Therapy Practice*. 2nd ed. Jones & Bartlett, Sudbury, MA.

Norman, G.R. and Streiner, D.L. (2003). *PDQ Statistics*. 3rd ed. BC Decker: Hamilton, ON.

Portney, L.G., Watkins, M.P. (2008). *Foundations of Clinical Research: Applications to Practice*. 3rd ed. Prentice Hall. Boston, MA.

Paszkevicz, J., Webb, T., Waters, B., et. al. (2012) *The Effectiveness of Injury Prevention Programs in Reducing the Incidence of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Sprains in Adolescent Athletes*. *Journal of Sport Rehabilitation*, 2012 (21), 371-377. (Critically Appraised Topic Example)

Format each submission according to the guidelines listed below. When ready to submit, include only the application and cover page as listed above, and the structured abstract as outlined below (i.e. 3-4 total pages per submission).



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Formats For Each Abstract Category

Basic Research Abstracts

The Title of your Abstract Bolded and in Title Case

[3 spaces]Doe JT*, Public JQ†: *First Author's Institution Name, †Second Author's Institution.

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Context: Write a sentence or two summarizing the rationale for the study, providing a reason for the study question and/or uniqueness of study. **Objective:** State the precise objective(s) or question(s) addressed in the report, including a priori hypotheses if applicable. **Design:** Describe the overall study design of the project reported (e.g., randomized controlled trial, crossover trial, cohort or cross-sectional). **Setting:** Describe the environment in which the study was conducted to help readers understand the transferability of the findings, (e.g., patient clinic, research laboratory or field). **Patients or Other Participants:** Describe the underlying target population, selection procedures (e.g., population based sample, volunteer sample or convenience sample) and important aspects of the final subject pool (e.g., number, average age, weight, height and measures of variance, years of experience or gender). Appropriate sample size should be evident. **Interventions:** Interventions are the independent variables in the study. Describe the essential pieces of the experimental methods, types of materials, measurements and instrumentation utilized, data analysis procedures and statistical tests employed. Provide validity and reliability information on novel instrumentation. **Main Outcome Measures:** Clearly identify primary or critical dependent variables that support the primary objective(s) of the study. Indicate the statistical analysis employed to answer the primary research objective(s). **Results:** The main results of the study should be given. Comparative reports must* include descriptive data (e.g., proportions, means, rates, odds ratios or correlations), accompanying measures of dispersion (e.g., ranges, standard deviations or confidence intervals) and inferential statistics data. Results should be accompanied by the exact level of statistical significance. The P value should not exceed 3 digits to the right of decimal. When the exact significance is below $P < .001$, the exact significance should be reported as $P < .001$. **Conclusions:** Summarize or emphasize the new and important findings of the study. The conclusion must be consistent with the study objectives and results as reported and should be no more than three to four sentences. If possible, relate implications of the findings for clinical practice. **Word Count:** 450 words.

** The purpose of having both descriptive and inferential data is that it provides the reader with the ability to judge the concluding statements. Descriptive data provides confidence that the data are 'reliable' and provides a gauge to determine whether the inferential statistics and conclusions are meaningful. Studies reporting analysis of larger data bases with multiple variables do not need to report all descriptive data, but should provide descriptive data for those variables which the author(s) believe to be the primary outcome(s) and support the overall conclusions of the study.*

Survey Research Abstracts

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[3 spaces]Doe JT*, Public JQ†: *First Author's Institution Name, †Second Author's Institution.

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Context: Write a sentence or two summarizing the rationale for the study, providing a reason for the study question. **Objective:** State the precise objective(s), purpose or question(s) addressed in the report. **Design:** Describe the overall study design of the project reported (e.g., cross sectional, case-control, longitudinal or controlled intervention trial). **Setting:** Describe the environment in which the study was

conducted to help readers understand the transferability of the findings, (e.g., population-based, patient clinic, classroom or athletic event). **Patients or Other Participants:** Describe the underlying target population, sample selection procedures (e.g., population based, volunteer or convenience sample, random or systematic sample, or stratified or cluster sampling) and important aspects of the final subject pool (e.g., number, average age, years of experience or gender). Provide the final response rate.

Interventions: Interventions are the independent variables in the study. Describe the essential pieces of the experimental methods, the mode of survey administration (e.g., in-person interview, telephone, self-administered, online or computer-assisted), details of the survey development (formative research or pre-testing for new instruments), execution and data collection process, and instruments utilized. Provide validity and reliability information for all new instruments. **Main Outcome Measures:** Clearly identify primary or critical dependent variables that support the primary objective(s) of the study. Describe how any data was manipulated (e.g. scoring process for scaled instruments or categorization of variables).

Indicate the data and statistical analysis employed to answer the primary research objective(s). **Results:** The main results of the study should be given. Reports must* include descriptive data (e.g., proportions, means, rates, odds ratios or correlations), accompanying measures of dispersion (e.g., ranges, standard deviations or confidence intervals) and inferential statistical data. Results should be accompanied by the exact level of statistical significance. The *P* value should not exceed 3 digits to the right of decimal.

When the exact significance is below $P < .001$, the exact significance should be reported as $P < .001$.

Conclusions: Summarize or emphasize the new and important findings of the study and relate implications of the findings for clinical practice. The statement of your findings must be consistent with the results as reported and should be no more than three to four sentences. **Word Count:** 450 words.

** The purpose of having both descriptive and inferential data is that it provides the reader with the ability to judge the concluding statements. Descriptive data provides confidence that the data are 'reliable' and provides a gauge to determine whether the inferential statistics and conclusions are meaningful. Studies reporting analysis of larger data bases with multiple variables do not need to report all descriptive data, but should provide descriptive data for those variables which the author(s) believe to be the primary outcome(s) and support the overall conclusions of the study.*

Meta-Analysis and Systematic Reviews

The Title of your Abstract Bolded and in Title Case

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Context: Write a sentence or two summarizing the rationale for the study, providing a reason for the study question. **Objective:** State the precise objective(s) or question(s) addressed in the report, including a priori hypotheses if applicable. **Data Sources:** Identify how relevant research papers were identified – include databases and timeframe, key words and search limits. **Study Selection:** Describe the processes through which studies were selected for inclusion for further analysis. **Data Extraction:** Identify the number of investigators, the descriptive and measurement data obtained and if and how the quality of study methods was evaluated. **Data Synthesis:** Describe how the data were organized, the statistical procedures applied (during assessment of heterogeneity) and the results (e.g., effect sizes, odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals) of the analysis. **Conclusions:** Summarize or emphasize the new and important findings of the study and relate implications of the findings for future research and/or for clinical practice and offer an indication as to the strength of the evidence provided. The statement of your findings must be consistent with the results as reported. **Word Count:** 450 words.



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Qualitative Research Abstracts

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Context: Briefly explain the rationale for the study—provide a background for the study question.


Objective: State the precise objective(s) or question(s) addressed in the report. **Design:** Describe the overall study design of the project reported (e.g., case study, phenomenology or grounded theory).

Setting: Describe the environment in which the study was conducted to help readers understand the transferability of the findings, (e.g., clinical setting or educational institution). **Patients or Other**

Participants: Describe the underlying target population, selection procedures and important aspects of the final subject pool (e.g., number, average age and measures of variance, years of experience or gender). Describe the essential pieces of the sampling methods (e.g., theoretical sampling and criterion sampling). Comment on why this number of participants was used (e.g., data saturation guided the total number of participants selected for the study). **Data Collection and Analysis:** Describe how the data

were collected (e.g., interviews, observations or document analysis), managed (e.g., interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim; identify if software was utilized) and analyzed (e.g., the interviews were analyzed using an inductive content analysis). Include intercoder agreement information if relevant to the study. Identify any verification strategies used to ensure trustworthiness (e.g., indicate form of triangulation, or use of peer debriefer). **Results:** A short descriptive account of the case or the interpretation of the findings should be provided. This should include identifying and briefly explaining the emergent categories of themes. **Conclusions:** Summarize or emphasize the new and important findings of the study and relate implications of the findings for future research and/or for clinical practice. The statement of your findings must be consistent with the results as reported and should be no more than five sentences. **Word Count:** 450 words.

Clinical Case Report Abstracts

NOTE: All clinical case report abstracts submitted to Free Communications must have written permission of the patient prior to submission.  [\[Click here\]](#) for example. It is the responsibility of lead authors of submitted clinical case report abstracts to ensure that permission of the patient has been granted prior to submission. Authors should retain written documentation of permission for their records and in case of potential audit.

****New since 2018 - Case study guidelines have changed. There are now four categories of Case studies. Please review submission guidelines carefully. The CASE (Contributing to the Available Sources of Evidence) study guidelines have been revised to be more inclusive of both evidence-based and practice-based evidence. Drawing from recent publications, 1-4 there are now four types of CASE study abstracts. Levels 1-3 are submitted in one format and Level 4 is submitted in a different format.**

Table. Comparison of types of CASE report/study based on terminology and research design

Traditional Terminology	New Terminology*	Abstract Format (see guidelines on following pages)
Case Study	Level 1 Validation CASE Study	Level 1-3 Clinical CASE Study Abstract Guidelines
Case Study	Level 2 Exploration CASE Study/Series	Level 1-3 Clinical CASE Study Abstract Guidelines
Case Study	Level 3 Exploration CASE Study/Series	Level 1-3 Clinical CASE Study Abstract Guidelines
Case Report	Level 4 Rare Events CASE Study	Level 4 Clinical CASE Study Abstract Guidelines

*The level of the clinical case should be indicated in the abstract body and/or title to facilitate the review process.

Authors are encouraged to review the following references to determine the Level of case study they are submitting:

1. McKeon JMM, King MA, McKeon PO. Clinical Contributions to the Available Sources of Evidence (CASE) Reports: Executive Summary. J Athl Train. 2016; 51(7):581.
2. McKeon JMM, McKeon PO. Evidence-based practice or practice-based evidence: what's in a name? Int J Athl Ther Train. 2016; 21(1):1-3.
3. McKeon JMM, McKeon PO. New Year, a new set of guidelines for making clinical contributions to the available sources of evidence. Int J Athl Ther Train. 2016; 21(1):1-3.
4. McKeon JMM, McKeon PO. Building a case for case studies. Int J Athl Ther Train. 2015; 20(5):1-5.

Level 1-3 Clinical CASE Report Abstract Guidelines

The Title of your Abstract Bolded and in Title Case

[3 spaces]Doe JT*, Public JQ†: *First Author's Institution Name, †Second Author's Institution.

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Background: Provide an overview of the condition of interest using available evidence, where appropriate. Indicate the level of the clinical CASE Study. For a Level 1 validation CASE study, the authors should provide a clear description of the previously reported comparison study and highlight the most important findings. For Level 2 & 3 exploration case studies/series, introduce the alternate, unique, or irregular presentation of the case examined compared to the available evidence.

Patient: Present the clinical case(s), including primary patient characteristics (age, sex, sport if appropriate, sport or activity, and years of experience) and diagnosis. For a case series, describe the underlying target population with measures of means and variance and important aspects of the subject pool. Pertinent aspects of the medical history should be included. Describe their complaints, MOI, initial clinical examination, diagnostic imaging, lab tests, and their commonality (examples: characteristic, injury, postural/gait abnormality, pathology, MOI). Describe the process that led to the diagnosis of the condition. **Intervention or Treatment:** Describe the management of the case, interventions used, the timeline for progression to final resolution in the case, and the specific time points when treatment was provided. Relevant and unique details should be included. For level 2 or 3 case studies/series, compare and contrast the interventions used with the typical presentation of the condition as described in the literature. **Outcomes or other Comparisons:** Describe the primary outcomes or results of the case. For Level 1 CASE studies, compare and contrast the outcome from the current case to the outcome of the previously reported comparison study. Compare / contrast the outcomes used in the Level 2 or Level 3



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Exploration CASE Studies / CASE Series with the typical presentation of the condition as previously described. For Case Series, report whether all patients responded similarly to each other. For this, it is important to ensure that similar outcome measures were used. **Conclusions:** Interpret the findings of the study. For Level 1 CASE studies, discuss the current case in the context with the previously reported comparison study including the similarities and differences in the patient and outcomes. Discuss challenges associated with implementing the intervention from the comparison study “in real life” and provide recommendations for continued use of the assessment or intervention. For Level 2 & 3 case studies/series, discuss the challenges associated with the case due to the atypical presentation and provide recommendations for clinical practice. **Clinical Bottom Line:** Provide an overall statement of the most important clinical points that can be gleaned from the current CASE study. **Word count:** 600 words.

Level 4 Clinical CASE Report Abstract Guidelines

The Title of your Abstract Bolded and in Title Case

[3 spaces]Doe JT*, Public JQ†: *First Author's Institution Name, †Second Author's Institution.

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Background: Include the individual's age, sex, sport or activity, pertinent aspects of their medical history, a brief history of their complaint and physical findings from the athletic trainer's examination. **Differential Diagnosis:** Include all possible diagnoses suspected based on the history, mechanism of injury, and the initial clinical examination prior to physician evaluation and subsequent diagnostic imaging and laboratory tests. **Treatment:** Include the physician's evaluation and state the results of diagnostic imaging and laboratory results if performed. The final diagnosis of the injury or condition and subsequent treatment and clinical course followed should be clearly detailed. Relevant and unique details should be included, as well as the final outcome of the case. **Uniqueness:** Briefly describe the uniqueness of this case such as its mechanism, incidence rate, evaluate findings, rehabilitation, or predisposing factors. **Conclusions:** Include a concise summary of the case as reported and highlight the case's importance to the athletic training profession and provide the reader with a clinical learning opportunity. **Word Count:** 600 words.

Clinical Case Series Abstracts

These are series of similar patients typically greater than 1 but less than 10 who have been purposefully followed to describe their clinical case outcomes. The intentions of these projects are to describe occurrences in a like group of patients and share insights on these occurrences. The case series does not have to include a hypothesis nor should a cause and effect conclusion be made due to the observational nature of this information.

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Background: Describe the underlying target population and important aspects of the subject pool (e.g., number, average age, weight, height (with measures of variance, sex, sport or activity, and years of experience). Pertinent aspects of their medical histories should be included. Describe their complaints, MOI, initial clinical examination, diagnostic imaging, lab tests, and their commonality (examples: characteristic, injury, postural/gait abnormality, pathology, MOI). It is encouraged to present information as a group or average (proportions). **Treatment:** The clinical course followed should be clearly detailed. Time frame should be provided and averaged if possible. Relevant and unique details should be included.

Specific outcome variables in which all patients within the series were evaluated for should be listed. The final outcome of these variables should be provided in respect to their common characteristic. **Results:** The unique subsequent treatment, prevention program, specific rehab program, special/diagnostic test, outcomes, or predisposing factors, that all subjects experienced is explained. Use of percentages is encouraged. **Uniqueness:** Briefly describe the uniqueness of these cases as a whole. **Conclusions:** Conclusions should recap the most important background, treatment, and uniqueness points for the reader. Your conclusions must be consistent with the final outcome. Statements should concisely describe the most pertinent points of your clinical cases while providing the reader a clinical learning opportunity. Avoid statements of cause and effect since these are observational reports. **Word count:** 600 words.

Critically Appraised Topics Abstracts

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Clinical Scenario: A brief description of the clinical scenario leading to the clinical question. **Clinical Question:** A focused clinical question of importance in athletic training. **Search Strategy:** Identify how relevant research papers were identified – include databases and timeframe, key words, search limits and the processes through which studies were selected for inclusion for further analysis. **Search Results:** Identify the number of relevant studies found, the number of investigators and how the quality of study methods were evaluated. **Best Evidence:** Indicate how many studies were chosen for inclusion and appraisal in this CAT and provide the reasons that these studies were selected (use Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine's definitions in determining level of evidence). **Clinical Bottom Line:** The most important take-home message from the available evidence. Some statement regarding the level of available evidence and subsequent strength of recommendations is required. **Strength of Recommendation:** A brief description of the strength of evidence summarized following the critical appraisal. **Word Count:** 450 words.

Please ensure that you are using this form to submit your abstract, and that you are only submitting the application, cover sheet, and formatted abstract. All additional material must be deleted prior to submission.

If you have any questions please contact:

Mark Knoblauch PhD, LAT, ATC, CSCS
Chair, SWATA Free Communications and Research Committee
Clinical Assistant Professor
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